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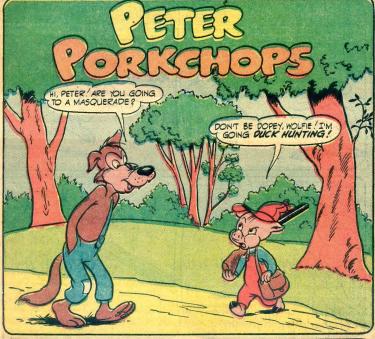


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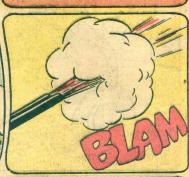














































































































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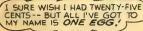


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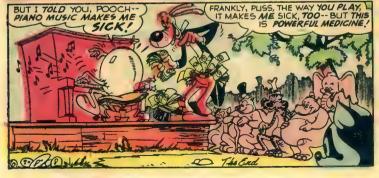














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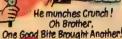




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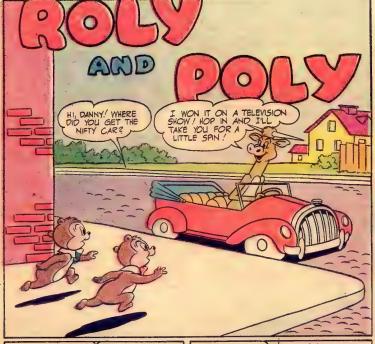




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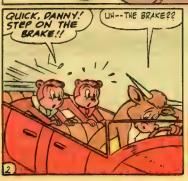










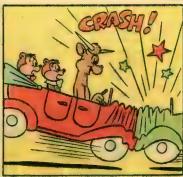




























































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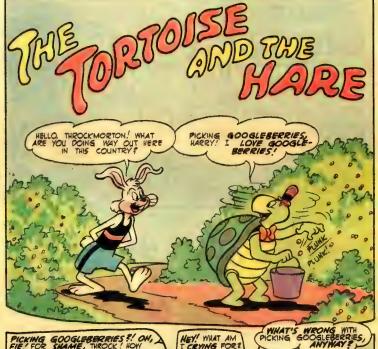
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BOOM!





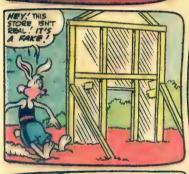




















































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66 GEE, fellers, can I play?" asked Paul

But they just ignored him, the same way they'd been doing for the past week, ever since he first arrived in town. It hadn't taken Paul long to discover that this corner baseball lot was bossed by these two—Bruno Bulldog and Danny Dane. All the other players seemed to take it for granted that Bruno and Danny were the team captains. They were the leaders—and they were mean!

"Come on! We're choosing sides!" shouted the Bulldog to the group that had gathered on the lot, as they did each morning. But much as Paul loved baseball, he never got to play. He was a new kid in town, and the team captains paid no attention to him. The very first day he'd overheard them whispering something about how he was too small to play.

And so he sat on the sidelines and watched the game, thinking to himself, "Oh, how I wish they'd choose me for the team! Just once! Then I'd show them!"

He wanted to shout things like "Hit that old apple!" and "Kill the umpire!"—but he was afraid that if he yelled, Bruno Bulldog or Danny Dane would come over and whack him! He'd seen them whack lots of kids when they were displeased, and most anything at all seemed to displease them.

Suddenly something happened!

Danny Dane was pitching. A fellow named

Wally Weasel was up at bat, and Bruno Bulldog was squatting in the catcher's position. Then Danny wound up and threw the ball. A sudden gust of wind carried it up above the batter's head and past Bruno's mitt. Everyone turned to watch the ball as it sailed across the lot, sraight towards a nearby house!

CRASH! The baseball whammed through a big plate glass window and they all watched, horrified, as the glass shattered in every direction!

"Omigosh! Now you've done it!" yelled Bruno Bulldog to the pitcher.

"What are you, talking about?" retorted Danny Dane. "YOU saw the wind carry the ball. It wasn't MY fault! But I must say, you sure didn't try very hard to catch it, Bruno!"

"Listen, wise guy," shouted the Bulldog.
"you THREW the ball!"

"Yeah! But YOU missed it!"

Time was flying. The two bullies eyed the damaged window fearfully. Any minute now the angry house owner would be hurrying out! There was no time to lose!

Suddenly Bruno's eyes lit up with a new idea. "You!" he said, pointing at Wally Weasel. "You're to blame! You could've batted the ball, but you just stood there without even swinging at it!"

"Gee, fellers," whined Wally in protest,

"I would have struck out. It was way above me!"

Danny Dane and Bruno Bulldog would have insisted on blaming Wally for the accident if Bruno hadn't suddenly remembered something. "Say!" he exclaimed. "Wally's father owns the circus! We'd better be careful or we won't get any more free tickets!"

Then they whispered something that Paul

couldn't hear, but it was obvious that they were talking about him. They glanced at him, said a few more words, grinned at each other ... and ... stalked over to him! "Well, well, well! If it isn't little Paulie!"

"Well, well, well! If it isn't little Paulie!"
they jeered, grabbing him by the ear and drag-

ging him over to the center of the lot.

"Wh-what's up?" stammered Paul. But he didn't have long to ask questions, for just then the owner of the house came dashing over to them.

"Who did that?" he yelled as he approached them, pointing at the shattered glass.

Nobody said a word.

"Listen, kids," he said impatiently, "I'm Larry Lion, I own that house, and I demand an answer!"

When he talked he almost roared. Danny Dane was shaking in his boots, but Bruno Bulldog, who was never afraid of anything, replied, "Here's the fellow who threw the ball, Mr. Lion—Paul Poodle!"

So saying, Bruno shoved poor, innocent Paul into Mr. Lion's arms.

"You threw it?" demanded Mr. Lion, staring down at the bewildered Poodle.

"I-I-" Paul Poodle began to stutter.

"Well, well! You are a find!" interrupted Mr. Lion. "I can certainly use a fellow with a pitching arm like yours on my team! I own the Zooville Baseball Team, you know, and you're just what I need!"

Throwing his arm around Paul's shoulders, Mr. Lion led him down the street. Bruno and Danny followed them at a distance, their faces bright red. They were so surprised and upset and angry that they could hardly breathe! Neither one could understand what had happened!

A little while later, at the stadium where the Zooville Baseball Team did its training. Mr. Lion was asking Paul Poodle to pitch a ball to him.

When they heard that, Bruno and Danny broke into loud laughter. "Oh, boy! This'll be funny!" they roared. "That shrimp won't even be able to lift the ball!"

But right in the middle of their guffaws, Paul Poodle threw the ball. It whizzed by like lightning.

"WOW!" shouted Mr. Lion happily.
"WHAT A PITCH! You have the most
powerful arm I've ever seen, Paul. Let's have
a look at it!"

A curious crowd gathered around him as Paul peeled back his sleeve and revealed his powerful biceps! As everyone oh'd and ah'd, Paul explained modestly, "I've practiced a lot by myself!"

But Bruno and Danny were madder than ever. "Hey, Mr. Lion!" Danny said suddenly. "Let me try pitching for you, huh?" And when Danny wound up, he thought to himself, "Perhaps the wind only helped to carry my other pitch through the window. Perhaps I, too, am of big league caliber!"

With all his strength he threw the ball, but it barely reached the catcher!

"Sorry," said Mr. Lion. "I can't use you! And you, Bulldog—I don't like your face! Both of you, please clear out of my stadium!"

As Bruno passed Paul Poodle on the way out, he leaned toward him with a leer and said, "Say, Paul, how about playing on my team this Saturday?"

Paul just smiled and answered, "Thanks, anyway, Bruno—but I guess I'll be too busy getting ready to pitch the World Series!"





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EGYPT, 1947... IN THE OFFICE OF THE MINISTER OF HEALTH ...

CHOLERA! ANOTHER EPIDEMIC HAS BROKEN OUT

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IT'S NOT A QUESTION OF MONEY.'
IT'S JUST THAT I COULDN'T BEAR
TO HAVE YOU HURT HIM.'



DON'T YOU REALIZE MICE ARE PESTS?









































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